

If a basic training program loses accreditation, the relevant DHS component shall notify the department within 30 days after such loss.

H.R. 5616 also would require the DHS Science and Technology Directorate to carry out research and development to enhance state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement access to training on homeland security threats.

Program level academic accreditation requires a discipline to have identified and vetted a set of student learning outcomes.

Without accreditation it remains extremely difficult for a discipline to demonstrate true legitimacy because there would be an absence of standards associated with the curriculum and teaching methods.

Professional legitimacy requires that, integrated with the discipline, is a recognized accreditation process which helps develop incentives for academic programs to adopt accreditation into a widespread practice.

There is a recognized need for responders from all disciplines, including public sector professionals, to have the knowledge, skills and abilities that allow them to participate in Homeland Protection activities.

Homeland Protection activities are common to both the public and private sector and include prevention, preparedness, protection, mitigation, response and recovery from, "all hazards", including terrorism.

Employers must know that their employees and prospective employees have demonstrated competency in the area of Homeland Protection.

Professionals must have a predetermined blend of experience and education, show completed course work in the knowledge areas required by the Certification Board and take an online course and pass the Homeland Protection Professional test.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that meeting the reporting requirements of the bill would cost DHS less than \$500,000 over the 2022 through 2026 period.

For programs that are not accredited, the Secretary must provide the reasons for not obtaining or maintaining accreditation, the activities, taken to achieve accreditation, and the anticipated timeline for accreditation of the program.

Unfortunately, several DHS law enforcement basic training programs are not accredited, including the U.S. Border Patrol Academy, Customs and Border Protection's Field Operations Academy Officer Basic Training Program, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Officer Basic Training Program.

In some cases, programs have been unaccredited for several years, e.g., the Border Patrol Academy submitted an initial application in 2006 but did not pursue accreditation further.

As the Chairwoman of the Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security Subcommittee, I believe efficient training can and will save lives, and that Department of Homeland Security officers deserve the highest standards of preparation.

Proper training is the only way our authorities can safely and effectively carry out their missions.

Madam Speaker, we need to ensure that our DHS officers are properly trained and educated on their basic trainings.

I urge all members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 5616, the "DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2021", which is critical to ensuring the safety of all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF FRANK CROW

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the life of Frank Crow who passed away on February 23, 2022, doing what he loved to do—spending time outside on a snowmobile in Gallatin National Forest in Yellowstone National Park.

Frank lived in Jacksonville, Alabama, and was born on June 11, 1956. Everyone knew when Frank Crow entered the room because he always ended up being the center of attention. Not surprisingly, he even exited this world as the center of attention.

Frank was born in Ludwigshafen, Germany, as the first of two children. After traveling the world as a military brat, his family relocated to Oneonta, Alabama, where he graduated with the class of 1974 from Oneonta High School.

He received his undergraduate from Jacksonville State University in 1977, where he was an active member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. Frank served in the U.S. Army for 12 years with training as an Airborne Ranger Infantryman "Grunt". His leadership talents were used with two company commands and two overseas tours (Germany and Korea). His attention to detail and vision groomed his soldiers to raise the bar and exceed in all areas. He exited the military with the rank of Major in 1989. He loved this country. After leaving the Military, Frank received two Masters' Degrees from Jacksonville State University. He also enjoyed substitute teaching and coaching football at Jacksonville High School.

He lived a robust and full life. He was blessed with a loving family and wonderful friends. He loved being outside, hunting, fishing, skiing, motorcycling and snowmobile riding. His talent for helping Veterans was his passion. He loved receiving calls from the individuals he helped with positive news from the VA. Many of the veterans he helped appreciated his knowledge of the process that aided in the veterans increased benefits. "After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." 1 Peter 5:10

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Frank's life of service and dedication to our country and our Veterans. He will be greatly missed.

HOMELAND SECURITY CAPABILITIES PRESERVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5615 the Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Act, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a plan to make Federal assistance available to certain urban areas that previously received Urban Area Security Initiative funding and were removed from the program.

Then, the DHS Secretary is required to submit a plan to Congress on how to make Federal assistance available to former UASI jurisdictions to help them take on the costs of preserving UASI-funded homeland security programs.

In the wake of September 11, 2001, there was a recognition that U.S. urban centers could be terrorist targets and did not have the resources to develop core capabilities to prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist attacks and other catastrophic events on their own.

Over the past 18 years, UASI has played an instrumental role in helping these cities prevent and respond to terrorist threats and attacks.

As a member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery, I received testimony from Orlando Police Chief Orlando Rolon that addressed this issue.

Police Chief Rolon testified that, for local law enforcement who are on the "front lines of responding to any emergency, whether it be a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or global pandemic, FEMA preparedness grants are critical resources that bolster law enforcement's ability to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks and other associated threats."

Year-to-year changes in the terrorism risk picture, fluctuations in grant funding levels, and changes in DHS' risk formula can result in jurisdictions suddenly falling out of the program, after years of critical investment.

The sudden loss of Federal support for maintaining essential homeland security capabilities can place great strain on cities that may not have the resources to cover these costs.

Jurisdictions that lost UASI grant funding often seek to continue partnering with DHS to ensure that they can maintain the security capabilities they achieved with UASI. These jurisdictions could be helped under H.R. 5615.

This bill will help jurisdictions preserve their level of security capabilities by directing DHS to develop a plan for how to support the transition of costs associated with maintaining UASI-funded homeland security core capabilities.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to vote for the H.R. 5615, Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Act.